



United States Attorney District of New Jersey

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 8, 2010

www.justice.gov/usao/nj

CONTACT: Rebekah Carmichael

Office of Public Affairs

(973) 645-2888

THREE CHARGED WITH ROLES IN CONSPIRACY TO STEAL HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS FROM STUDENT GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

NEWARK, N.J. – Three individuals previously identified as unnamed co-conspirators in a scheme to steal from the New Jersey City University (“NJCU”) Student Government Organization (“SGO”) were arrested this morning and charged with their roles in the fraud, United States Attorney Paul J. Fishman announced.

Arsenio Willey, 21; Curtis Shearer, 22; and Kimberly Jackson, 38, all of Jersey City, N.J.; were arrested this morning in Jersey City by federal agents and charged with conspiring to steal funds from the NJCU through unauthorized checks. None of the defendants arrested today ever worked for the university.

Shaunette R. Moody 48, the suspended office manager for the NJCU SGO, and her husband, Alexander Moody, 51, both also of Jersey City, were indicted last week by a federal grand jury for allegedly running the scheme. Shaunette Moody is also charged with theft from an organization receiving federal benefits; Alexander Moody is charged with aiding and abetting that theft. The total loss of NJCU funds resulting from the scheme exceeded \$420,000.

All five defendants are expected to appear this afternoon before United States Magistrate Judge Claire C. Cecchi in Newark federal court.

According to the Complaint unsealed today and other documents filed in this case:

The Moodys conspired to exploit Shaunette Moody’s duties as the SGO office manager by issuing unauthorized checks made payable to themselves and others. Willey, Shearer and Jackson each participated in the conspiracy between May 7, 2007 and June 25, 2010. During that time, Shaunette Moody would cause checks, most of which were authorized with forged signatures, to be issued payable to her co-conspirators. She caused at least 68 unauthorized checks to be issued payable to Willey in the total amount of \$143,983; at least 26 checks to be issued to Shearer with a total value of \$59,276; and at least 17 checks to be issued payable to Jackson in the total amount of \$34,315. Willey, Shearer and Jackson provided proceeds of the transactions to Shaunette and Alexander Moody in exchange for compensation.

Shaunette Moody caused at least 237 checks to be fraudulently issued from the SGO, many of which were payable to her, her husband, Willey, Shearer, or Jackson. At least 219 of the checks were cashed, for a total value of \$424,880.97.

The defendants arrested today each face a maximum potential penalty of five years in prison on the conspiracy charge and a maximum fine of \$250,000 or twice the gross gain or loss resulting from the offense.

U.S. Attorney Fishman credited special agents of the Internal Revenue Service – Criminal Investigation, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Victor W. Lessoff in Newark, and special agents of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of the Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Brian Hickey, for the investigation which led to the charges.

The government is represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall H. Cook of the United States Attorney's Office Criminal Division in Newark.

The charges and allegations made in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are considered innocent unless and until proven guilty.

10-251

###